

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM IT
SUBJECT: 1978 COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES

REF: STATE 215919

1. THE EMBASSY FINDS THE SECTION ON ITALY IN THE 1977
COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY
CORRECT WITH RESPECT TO THE CURRENT YEAR. WE SUGGEST
ONLY TWO CHANGES.

2. TO THE SECTION 1. C. ARBITRARY ARREST OR IMPRISON-
MENT WE WOULD ADD: BEGIN TEXT. LAWS PASSED AFTER
THE KIDNAPPING OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESIDENT
ALDO MORO IN MARCH OF THE CURRENT YEAR AND ALREADY-
EXISTING LEGISLATION ON PUBLIC ORDER, THE REALE LAW,
PROVIDE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES WITH BROAD POWERS OF
ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT. THE POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE
AGREED THAT THE REALE LAW SHOULD BE AMENDED BUT WERE
UNABLE TO AGREE DURING THE CURRENT YEAR ON NEW LEGIS-
LATION. A PUBLIC REFERENDUM TO REPEAL THE REALE LAW
WAS DEFEATED IN JUNE. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE
GOVERNMENT HAS SYSTEMATICALLY EMPLOYED THESE OR ANY
OTHER LAWS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ARBITRARY ARRESTS OR
IMPRISONMENT. END TEXT.

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3. WE SUGGEST REWRITING SECTION 2 ON GOVERNMENTAL
POLICIES RELATING TO THE FULFILLMENT OF SUCH VITAL
NEEDS AS FOOD, ETC, AS FOLLOWS: "ITALY HAS AN EXTENSIVE
SYSTEM OF SOCIAL WELFARE BENEFITS COVERING OLD
AGE, RETIREMENT HEALTH AND UNEMPLOYMENT. THESE PRO-
GRAMS HAVE EXPERIENCED CONTINUING PROBLEMS AND LARGE
DEFICITS. VARIOUS PROPOSED CHANGES IN THESE PROGRAMS

ARE CURRENTLY UNDER STUDY BY THE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL PARTIES.
GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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